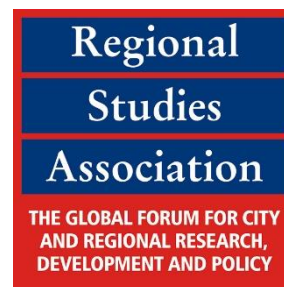


## Call for Abstracts and Call for Early Career Plenary Speaker

Regional Studies Association Winter Conference 2019 (#RSAWinter)

# Turbulent Times: Rethinking Regions and Cities

14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019, Holiday Inn Bloomsbury, London, UK



**Abstract submission deadline: 19<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

We live in turbulent times, but when has this not been the case? The history of regions and the 'regional studies project' has always had at its core concerns relating to new and increased social and spatial inequalities resulting from economic and political change. Whatever change has occurred to cause this turbulence, some people and places have taken advantage and raced ahead while others were disadvantaged and left behind. The difference today is that the stakes are higher, with more people and more places exposed and being impacted than ever before.

Indeed, regional research is once again spearheading major efforts to provide the type of reliable, robust knowledge necessary to correct the opening of gaps between people and places which are emerging as winners and losers. In order to find innovative solutions to wicked problems it is critical to ask fundamental questions about how we do regional research. Do our existing theories and concepts adequately explain present instabilities and new realities, or, do we need to rethink our analytical frameworks in the new tumultuous reality? Do existing policies and frameworks help (or hinder) cities and regions, or are there alternatives that we should be promoting? More fundamentally, are we asking the right questions and looking in the right places to find the innovative solutions that can enable a more spatially balanced, sustainable and inclusive model of economic growth and political stability.

The Regional Studies Association Winter Conference 2019 presents a timely opportunity to discuss and debate these important issues, to establish the need and nature of future research imperatives in the field, and to address the concerns and challenges confronting practitioners and policymakers. The focus on problems and solutions is an invitation to step outside the narrow confines of existing debate to address issues of profound relevance, significance and importance to future regions and cities.

The conference organisers are keen to attract papers and sessions which rethink cities and regions by identifying new fields of enquiry, which address a broad research and policy agenda, and include contributions from any discipline which can offer relevant insights at local and regional levels. Abstracts, which are highly innovative, collaborative, international or multi-disciplinary are especially welcome.

**Submission Details:** Please submit your abstract (up to 250 words and text only) through the RSA conference portal at [www.regionalstudies.org/events/2019-winter-conference](http://www.regionalstudies.org/events/2019-winter-conference). Abstracts will be considered and reviewed by the Conference Programme Committee against the criteria of originality, interest, subject balance and geographical spread. **Abstract submission deadline is 19<sup>th</sup> August 2019.**

**Academic Organiser:** John Harrison, Loughborough University, UK

**RSA Conference Manager:** Katharina Bürger, [katharina.buerger@regionalstudies.org](mailto:katharina.buerger@regionalstudies.org), +44 (0) 1273 698 017

More information at <https://www.regionalstudies.org/events/2019-winter-conference/>

**Broad themes and key agendas the organisers are keen to facilitate discussion around include, but are not limited to:**

Evaluating new and existing concepts, theories, frameworks, methods and vocabularies for understanding regional development

Industry 4.0 and the future shape of innovation, industrial development and strategy

Post-2020 EU Budget, the future of EU Policies and their implications for cities and regions

Energy transitions, environmental sustainability, and designing future cities and regions

Assessing new financial instruments for city and regional development

Brexit geographies and the future for investment, trading relations and their regional impacts

The role of planning, governance and devolution in turbulent times

The role of universities and other institutions in shaping places and futures

New tools and techniques for visualising and modelling cities and regions

The changing geographies and spatial impacts of global investment flows, Global Value Chains and global connectivity

Global migration flows and the integration of migrants into cities and regions

Technological change, innovation and its implications for cities and regions

**Call for Early Career Plenary Speaker:** We now seek applications from early career researchers to present an Early Career Plenary Presentation at the forthcoming Winter Conference 2019.

The application should include the following:

- Name and contact details
- Place of employment
- Short version CV (4-page maximum)
- Up to 500-word abstract of the paper to be presented
- Short video (maximum 4 minutes) of the paper to be presented
- Evidence of eligibility to apply/PhD certificate – *early career researchers are defined as being within 5 years after receiving their PhD certificate.*

Videos filmed on a smart phone with reasonable clarity of vision and sound are perfectly acceptable for the purpose of the competition. Applicants should clearly present their name and institution in the video. They should outline their research, its relevance to the conference topics and explain why they should be selected for the plenary presentation. The decision will be taken by a committee of the RSA including the Association's Chair, the academic conference organisers and the CEO. The successful candidate will be informed as soon as possible following the closing date. The award includes a complimentary place at the conference, a contribution towards travel expenses and 2 nights' accommodation.

Applicants are expected to be either an RSA member on application or to take out RSA membership on acceptance.

**Early Career Plenary Speaker submission deadline: 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019, 23:59 (GMT)**

Please email your application to Katharina Bürger at [katharina.buerger@regionalstudies.org](mailto:katharina.buerger@regionalstudies.org)